sent 22 Feb.y 1875 Rome 14th Feb. 1875

My dear Marcia

I often think of you in this cruel winter time, for also we have desperately cold weather except that the brilliant sun is a constant resource & a substitute for fire to the people but not for me for I am obliged to keep a good fire as I suffer severely from cold, particularly in my hands & feet. It is some 4 or 5 days that I have not been able to go out, for as I am obliged to cab it out to some nice spot where I can get a sight of the beautiful mountains now covered with snow; so the going in a cab is sad for me cold, & if I suffer I should be laid up for months with rheumatism ~~for matter~~

Just now I am occupied in a very interesting matter. The Tomb of my illustrious fd Keats has fallen into decay & a party in England has written to General Sir Vincent Eyre, but as it is a general feeling that the old original Tomb should be preserved, so all kind of plans have been devised but mostly with out effect & it has occurred to me to erect a statue to the Poet in

bronze & to place the present tomb in front of the pedestal, This idea of mine has made a sensation, for the expence would be some 5 or 6 hundred pounds

This might be difficult to get subscribed, except that in America there are very great lovers of the Poet & so with the aid of Lord Houghton who wrote the Poets life the subject of the statue may become fashionable & so come about

You can understand how much I desire this honour to the memory of so dear a Friend to whom I owe almost every thing, for he was the pivot on which all my fortunes turned & still turn !! for my friendship is always gaining me friends on his account — but its too cold to write altho I am sitting by as good a wood fire as I can make & so I am obliged to pocket my hands for awhile

I regret to say that I have nothing in my pockets but my hands for by some little error I have not yet received my salary & I am hard up for a little while

The Carnival has been very fine favored by the

time the weather the tom foolery has flourished & the people are now no doubt repenting that they have spent money so foolishly

There there is great to do with Garibaldi who has proposed to make a great canal down to the sea to carry off the river which at times inundates the City & causes great misery to at least 20 Thousand people I have also a great projects down here the cold is a little abated I shall go to Garibaldi & hear what he says to it – It is to unite the two seas the Adriatic & the Mediterranean from the coast of Rome to the sea at Pescara, in this way the climate of Rome might be much improved by the sea sweeping I think from sea to sea – this is quite an original thought of mine, but I dont yet know if there is any thing in it!!

I hear such a good account of my dear children Arthur has sold his picture of Venice & Walter also has sold his drawing which he did at the Villa of Anderson what a marvellous meeting was that, so unlooked for so agreable & so advantageous to my Tom Son in law it was a great treat – you always remind me as to my good fortune in my children & I conclude you in the number, for dear Tom [redacted]

as a beginning which never promised any good

'Tis quite alarming that there are no orders given for pictures & as yet I have not sold a thing — there are no English nobles this year & every thing is changing, how lucky I am to be independant of these changes

In my house the Theatre is not yet made but is going on well & will be splendid

There has been a sad failure in the opera here & 'tis certain that the Italian singers have sunk down into idleness in studying & now their place is taken by foreigners even in Italy

I hope you will be able to give me a good account of poor dear Tom & that he is able to go with one stick & that your weather allows him to go out & that you are in the Spring

30th March — I'm glad to see that you have got fine weather at last, My son in law C. Newton has just arrived, he has discovered the great Temple of Diana at Ephesus

My love to all Your loving brother Joe